



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

FEB 17 2015

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Rod O'Sullivan
12115 W. Alameda Parkway
PO Box 281213
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

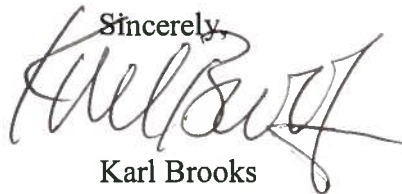
Dear Mr. O'Sullivan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Department of Energy and Western Area Power Administration Final Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to our authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Final EIS was assigned the CEQ number 20150013.

Western identified a preferred alternative of accepting the applicant that would build Grand Prairie Wind Farm in Holt County, Nebraska. The EPA appreciates the time and resources Western and Geronimo invested in working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to perform biological assessments of the proposals impacts on migratory birds, insects and bats.

The EPA understands that Western receives environmental documents after a private investor applies to interconnect to the power grid. In the future, EPA recommends Western request that future applicants for interconnection to the grid include additional alternatives so that those chosen or discarded by Western and the investor are more apparent.

Wind energy projects such as this will help this nation reach the goals established in the President's Climate Action Plan. Please let me know if Region 7 can be of additional assistance to your agency. You may also contact NEPA Reviewer, Joe Summerlin, at 913-551-7029 or summerlin.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks



Printed on Recycled Paper